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# Maternal Mortality

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THE UNITED  
STATES HAS  
THE WORST  
MATERNAL  
DEATH  
RATE OF  
ANY  
DEVELOPED  
COUNTRY



# HOW DOES THIS EFFECT WOMEN?

.....  
WOMEN AREN'T  
GETTING THE CARE  
THEY NEED DURING  
THEIR PREGNANCY  
OR AFTER. THIS  
LEADS TO AN  
INCREASE IN  
COMPLICATIONS AND  
DEATHS.

"EXCEPT IN HIGH-  
RISK CASES,  
WOMEN IN THE  
NETHERLANDS  
TURN TO  
MIDWIVES, NOT  
OBSTETRICIANS,  
DURING THEIR  
PREGNANCIES"-  
AMANDA GREEN

AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
WOMEN ARE  
3-4X MORE  
LIKELY TO  
DIE DURING  
CHILDBIRTH

THE MATERNAL  
DEATH RATE IS  
INCREASING  
OVER TIME

# STATISTICS ON MATERNAL MORTALITY:

"EVERY DAY,  
APPROXIMATELY  
830 WOMEN DIE  
FROM  
PREVENTABLE  
CAUSES RELATED  
TO PREGNANCY  
AND CHILDBIRTH." -  
WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

EACH YEAR MORE  
THAN 500,000  
WOMEN BETWEEN  
THE AGES OF 15  
AND 49 DIE OF  
CAUSES RELATED  
TO PREGNANCY  
AND CHILDBIRTH

## GLOBAL STATISTICS:

**38%**

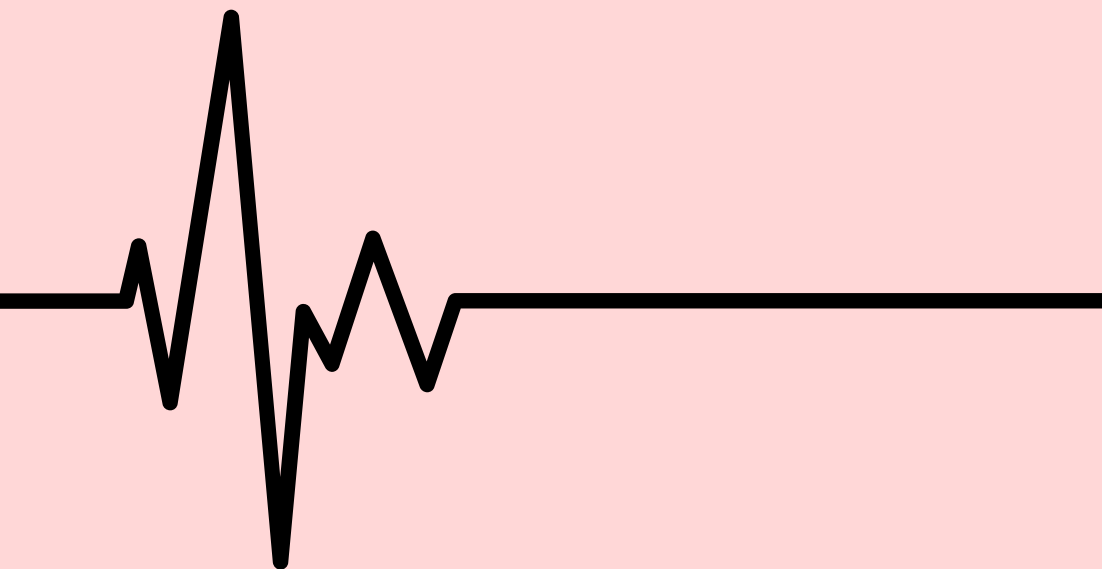
DIE WHILE  
PREGNANT

**45%**

END OF  
PREGNANCY  
TO 6 WEEKS  
AFTER

**18%**

6 WEEKS  
TO 1 YEAR  
AFTER



"EVERY DAY,  
APPROXIMATELY  
830 WOMEN DIE  
FROM  
PREVENTABLE  
CAUSES RELATED  
TO PREGNANCY  
AND CHILDBIRTH." -  
WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

"NEARLY HALF OF ALL OF THE  
DEATHS WERE CAUSED BY  
HEMMORAGE, CARDIOVASCULAR  
AND CORONARY CONDITIONS,  
CARDIOMYOPATHY OR  
INFECTION" - EMMA CHARLETON,  
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

PHOTO BY  
MAYBORODA



**WOMEN IN OTHER  
CULTURES, I.E.  
FRANCE AND JAPAN  
ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO STAY CALM  
DURING CHILDBIRTH  
AND OT AVOID  
SCREAMING**

**WORKING TO  
INCREASE THE  
QUALITY OF CARE  
DURING PREGNANCY  
AND AFTER COULD  
LEAD TO A  
DECREASE IN  
MATERNAL DEATHS.**

**STRESSORS SUCH AS  
HEALTHCARE COSTS,  
MATERNITY LEAVE,  
AND PREGNANCY RELATED  
HEALTH ISSUES CAN LEAD  
TO HIGHER RISK  
PREGNANCIES.**

# **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

.....

**“WE NEED TO LISTEN TO  
MOMS. AND WE NEED TO  
SUPPORT THEM,” SHAH  
SAID. “IF RISING  
MATERNAL MORTALITY IS  
FUNDAMENTALLY A  
FAILURE OF SOCIAL  
SUPPORT, WE ALL NEED  
TO STEP UP: BIRTH  
PARTNERS,  
GRANDPARENTS,  
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS,  
PROFESSIONAL  
COLLEAGUES – ALL OF  
US.”-NEEL SHAH,  
HARVARD MEDICAL**

# BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Addario, L., Addario, L., & Addario, L. (2018, December 13). Can the lives of mothers giving birth be saved? Retrieved May 29, 2019, from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2018/12/maternal-mortality-usa-health-motherhood/>. This article discusses the issue of women of color dying at an increased rate compared other women who are pregnant. The rate at which women are dying is too high and the article states that at least 60% of maternal deaths are preventable. The care women receive after birth is low and mental health is neglected significantly.

Charlton, E. (2018, November 20). American women are 50% more likely to die in childbirth than their mothers. Retrieved May 29, 2019, from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/11/deadly-delivery-how-childbirth-in-america-is-becoming-more-dangerous/>. This article explains that while other countries are decreasing their maternal mortality rate, the United States is increasing theirs. In 2015, maternal deaths were 26 out of 100,000 which was an increase from 1990 when the average was 17 out of 100,000.

COUNTRY COMPARISON :: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2223rank.html>. This article shows the maternal death rates throughout the world and shows where the United States sits in the rankings.

Green, A. (2013, February 07). How 5 Other Countries Approach Childbirth. Retrieved May 29, 2019, from <http://mentalfloss.com/article/51511/how-5-other-countries-approach-childbirth>. This article provides information on how other developed countries differ in their medical practices and considers possible factors that could attribute to why their rates of maternal deaths are lower than the United States.

Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Improving Birth Outcomes; Bale JR, Stoll BJ, Lucas AO, editors. Improving Birth Outcomes: Meeting the Challenge in the Developing World. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2003. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK222097/doi:10.17226/10841>. This article discusses maternal mortality as a whole and looks at possible factors that could be leading to the deaths of women in the United States. It provides statistics as well as definitions and explanations for pregnancy complications that commonly occur here in the U.S.

Kaplan, Emily Kumler. "Reducing Maternal Mortality." The New York Times, The New York Times, 5 Mar. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/03/05/well/family/reducing-maternal-mortality.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/05/well/family/reducing-maternal-mortality.html). This article talks about the raising issues currently occurring in healthcare related to women and addresses the push for c-sections when they aren't medically necessary. This was the most current article used as it was written last month on maternal mortality rates.

Lothian, Judith A. "Safe, Healthy Birth: What Every Pregnant Woman Needs to Know." Journal of Perinatal Education, vol. 18, no. 3, 2009, pp. 48–54., doi:10.1624/105812409x461225. This article discusses maternal care and what women need to know about childbirth as well as their pregnancy. The main focus is childbirth, as it is titled "Safe Health Birth: What Every Pregnant Woman Needs to Know".

"Maternal Mortality." World Health Organization, World Health Organization, 16 Feb. 2018, [www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality). This article helped me with finding reliable statistics as it is a national healthcare organization. This article looks beyond statistics and goes on to discuss causes and solutions.

Nina Martin, P., & Montagne, R. (2017, May 12). U.S. Has The Worst Rate Of Maternal Deaths In The Developed World. Retrieved May 29, 2019, from <https://www.npr.org/2017/05/12/528098789/u-s-has-the-worst-rate-of-maternal-deaths-in-the-developed-world>. This article discusses the fact that the United States has the highest maternal death rate of any developed country. It also explains the rate of complication in American women's pregnancies compared to other countries.

Shah, Neel. "A Soaring Maternal Mortality Rate: What Does It Mean for You?" Harvard Health Blog, 16 Oct. 2018, [www.health.harvard.edu/blog/a-soaring-maternal-mortality-rate-what-does-it-mean-for-you-2018101614914](http://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/a-soaring-maternal-mortality-rate-what-does-it-mean-for-you-2018101614914). This article discussed maternal mortality in an overview and provided brief statistics for the reader to understand the severity of this issue in healthcare. Shah also discussed how to help and what can be done to help with the death rate.